

all provisions for the contentment of the superior officials have been made. I submit that this is not the proper way of framing a budget; the interest of people should prevail over the comfort and emoluments of officials.

The view put forward by one of my colleagues, that we should not use current revenue on big reproductive works like the Harbour, is quite correct. The spending of current revenue on such schemes not only affects the ordinary expenditure on other necessary items but, as years go on and our income grows less, we will find it most difficult to meet this extra expenditure. The sooner we go in for borrowed capital for such works the better for the Government and the people.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

Sir — Though I took great trouble to study carefully the budget estimate for the year 1101 M. E., I must admit, being quite new to the subject, that I do not feel competent to pronounce any opinion upon most of the items in the estimate. This being the first session of the Cochin Legislative Council ever since it was inaugurated, the members of this House—I refer to the non-official members—are quite new to a subject of this kind and I must warn the Government, at the very outset, not to expect much of a constructive programme from them, at least during this first session; but they have another, equally important, function to perform, that of offering a destructive criticism; and I shall do my share of it.

Agriculture and Panchayats—I must be pardoned, if I am a bit hard upon the system of administration of this department as it is at present carried on. Administered on right lines, there is perhaps no department which can benefit the public to the same extent as the Department of Agriculture, but the general opinion now appears to be that the Agricultural Department is the one "that has the least benefited the State or the subjects". Again, "The costly white elephant at Ollukkara, the Central Farm with all the paraphernalia that surrounds it, is more or less a drain on the State Treasury". For "Agriculture Pro-

per", the estimate provides for an expenditure of Rs. 84,852. Can the Superintendent of Agriculture place his hands on his breast and honestly say to himself that his department has contributed to the development of the resources of the State, at least to an equal extent? What is the acreage of land which has increased its yield on account of the scientific methods of cultivation taught or demonstrated by the Agricultural Department? How many acres of land of single crop can the Agricultural Department claim to have been instrumental in converting to double crop lands; how many new crops, capable of being grown on lands unfit for cultivation of ordinary crops, have the Agricultural Department introduced into the State? What has the Department done for Irrigation? While I am not blind to what little the Agricultural Department has done hitherto, I do not think the results so far achieved, or likely to be achieved in the near future, under the present system of administration of the department warrant any longer such a heavy drain of well nigh Rs. 85,000. As I have said before, I am not now prepared with a constructive programme; but until such a programme—a programme that will practically help to develop the agricultural resources of the State—until such a programme is placed before this House, I hope the House will not be a party for the continuance of the heavy drain on the Treasury. But, as I said before, the Agricultural Department is the foremost one that can most benefit the State and the subjects thereof. I have no desire to end the department, but it must be mended. The Superintendent can have all his office establishment and field staff to enable him to devise practical means of developing the agricultural resources of the country, but the costly white elephant, the Central Farm, must no longer be allowed to eat so much without a corresponding benefit. It is very doubtful, if growing a lot of plantain trees, bringals, vendais, yams, &c., can have any educative value or prove of any practical benefit to the public. The Farm can, of course, have a few of all the different plants and trees that could with benefit, be grown in the State. They may be cultivated in the Farm scientifically, and their healthy state can be made to proclaim to the public the benefits of the scientific method of cultivation.

Good seeds of every kind, cheap manure and instructive pamphlets about practical methods of cultivating various grains, plants and trees must be made available to the public from the Farm.

The Central Farm must be self-maintaining, at least, when relieved of the burden of the expenditure on account of the Superintendent's pay, his office establishment and field staff. There is no excuse for carrying on a lot of operations of doubtful public benefit and causing a heavy drain of over half a lakh of rupees on the State Treasury. I am prepared to vote for the grant of this sum or even a larger sum, if for starting demonstration farms, at least one for each Taluk.

These demonstration farms must be started in the centre of large areas under cultivation, so that the owners of neighbouring lands can be made to see the practical benefit of the improved methods of cultivation. I do not suggest that these demonstration farms should be converted into botanical gardens. They may specialise in particular crops, popular in the locality selected. For instance, if the Agricultural Department takes on lease, say, ten acres of paddy field in the midst of a large plot of, say, hundred acres of land and, by improved methods of cultivation, make the ten acres grow much more than what the remaining area does, the Superintendent can rest assured that the very next day the owners of the remaining neighbouring lands will take to the improved methods of cultivation. I am told that it was in this way that Japan popularised the improved methods of cultivation throughout the length and breadth of that county.

If my information is correct, both the Secretary to the Council, who gets Rs. 150 per mensem, and the Legislative Assistant to the Government Advocate, who is to get Rs. 100 per mensem, are not full-timed officers but are allowed to practice as Vakils. I am for having one full-timed officer who can be the Secretary to the Council as well as be the Legislative Assistant to the Government Advocate.

I have to say a few words about the Mattancherry Electric Lighting Scheme. We have no details before us for judging if the proposed investment of Rs. 25,000 is likely to bring in any revenue to the State. Will it

bring in any revenue to the State and, if so, how much? Will there be any recurring expenditure; if so, how much? If it will not bring in any revenue and if there will be recurring expenditure, this House must think twice before voting for this expenditure, in view of the fact that Electric Lighting is more a luxury than a necessity, and we have more pressing needs to be satisfied. If it will not bring in any adequate revenue, the Government shall not, at this stage, take up the scheme, but may make some contribution towards the project, leaving it entirely into the hands of private agencies. Till full particulars of the scheme are placed on the table, I propose that this House should refuse to vote for this grant.

A Leper Asylum at considerable cost was built near Trichur; and, without taking this House into its confidence as to why the above Asylum has been given up and what is proposed to be done with it, the Government is asking for a big contribution for building up another Leper Asylum. Is it so urgent? Should such projects be undertaken, before more pressing needs are satisfied? I propose that this House should refuse to vote for this, till full particulars are placed on the table.

I have to say a word about the First Grade College Buildings. It is unfortunate that the Government should have decided upon having a First Grade College, without taking the opinion of this House. I cannot understand the urgency of the matter. Perhaps, the Government rightly thought that this House would not support this unnecessary project, which is going to prove a source of considerable drain every year on the State funds. The College can only aggravate the unemployment problem, helping to create more and more discontented young men every year and making them more unfit for the practical world.

The Colleges at Alwaye, Palghat and Trichur must satisfy the needs of the Cochinites. Anyhow, it is, perhaps no use condemning this project at this late stage, but this House can at least refuse any further capital expenditure on Collegiate Education.

And, lastly, I have to say a word on Irrigation; I would strongly press the Government to spend a lakh of rupees on Irrigation, which has, unfortunately, received least consideration in the budget. The Diwan Peishkar has very wisely and strongly recommended that the whole amount realised as land value should be spent on Irrigation works only. The Government should not grudge to spend at least one lakh of rupees on Irrigation, as recommended by the Diwan Peishkar, since they have realised a capital income, amounting to one lakh of rupees, as land value. This can easily be done by deleting the above items from the budget of the Public Works Department. The welfare of Cochin entirely depends upon the healthy state of its agriculture. Now, Cochin has to depend upon other agricultural countries for its bare existence. This can be remedied, if all the waste lands and forest exclusions are made cultivable. Then, I am sure, we can stand on our legs. This can be done by Irrigation and Irrigation only, by making use of all the river water that empties into the vast sea.

I am sorry to note that not even one rupee has been allotted on Irrigation proper in the Mukundapuram Taluk, through which three big rivers flow.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir, I congratulate the Finance Member upon the clear Statement and the spirit that animates him, in taking the members of this Council into partnership in revising the administration, in acquainting them with the working of the Financial machinery of the State and in offering to take advice from us. I cannot however be full in my congratulations upon the net result of the figures given in the Preliminary Budget, as I feel that, had he used the pruning knife a little more, we would have had a surplus budget. I, for one, do not desire the cutting down of expenditure in any useful department of the State but, *Sir*, I think, the time has come when we must cry "halt" to the spending of funds on luxuries and experiments of dubitable value; and, in matters where we stand committed to loosing concerns, the time has come to examine the policy of the usefulness and advantage of still continuing to

maintains such concerns as eat up a good portion of the revenue, without any return worth mentioning.

I take it, Sir, that, in a general discussion of a budget as a whole, when the Rules have laid down that any question of principle involved therein may also be discussed, it tantamounts to a declaration that we are at liberty to offer criticisms upon the general policy of the administration, of which the budget is the financial aspect. We have, in the coming years, large expenditure facing us, in connection with the development of the Harbour, which will tax the resources of the State to a considerable degree; and when we find that the Land revenue of the State has reached its maximum limit and when we take into consideration the possible dwindling of revenue under Abkari, Tobacco, Opium and Ganja—against the consumption of which a large volume of public opinion is rising in the country, which may have the effect, in coming years, of reducing the revenues under these heads, it is time that, while carefully husbanding the resources of the State, a policy of strict retrenchment should at once be taken in hand to reduce the expenses of the State, all round. The tendency for an all-round increase, on account of the revision, to suit the times and the development of establishments, and expansion, referred to, by the Finance Member, in my view, must give way to strict economy and spending of funds only where it is absolutely necessary. From 1090 to 1099, that is, within a decade, we have, almost doubled the expenditure under Education; and this rate of growth must certainly be arrested, at least for a time; or we will be face to face with extra taxation. Already, the people of Cochin, Sir, have been taxed high enough, as the incidence of taxation, according to the revised estimate of 1100, is very nearly Rs. 7½ per head of the population, including man, woman and child, which is more than in British India. To think of putting any additional burden upon a land that is poor in money resources will be a proposition that will meet, in my view, with very strong opposition in the country.

We want extensive education in the country so that the light of knowledge may illuminate every dark room and corner that remains in such condition still; and I would urge that intensive education may be left to take care of itself, as that is only a luxury on which, if we have

the money, we shall not grudge to spend.

Coming to Public Works, Sir, we find that the expenditure, in 1900, was Rs. 6'93 lakhs; and the Government proposes to spend, this year, Rs. 14,08,600. The expenditure, therefore, has doubled itself in a decade. It is incumbent, therefore, to examine the policy of frittering expenditure throughout the State, every year, upon Public Works in future and to examine the working of a policy of concentrating expenditure, from year to year, in selected Taluks of the State, beginning with the one that is worse off now, so that, by the concentration of expenditure, the cost of maintenance charges may be reduced. I would also urge upon our young and energetic Chief Engineer, as one hailing from the soil itself and knowing the needs and capacity of the country, to omit from his budget all items of luxury and to postpone new works to years of surplus budgets. Just as in a family, Sir, where parents make sacrifices for the benefit of the children, when face to face with a deficit in the family income, a paternal Government also should act in the same spirit and this, particularly, in the Public Works Department.

Original Works under 'Communications', now put down to cost Rs. 1,75,094, may be safely reconsidered and some, at least, of them may surely be postponed.

Under 'Original Buildings' also, Sir, after having spent Rs. 1,52,831—15—10 plus Rs. 18,580—4—6 or, in other words, Rs. 1,71,412—5—10 of public funds for the purpose of a Leper Asylum in an isolated locality, where the dens of wild beasts could even now be seen, selected by the Government on the advice of its expert, it is heart-rending to find that, on account of futile sentimental objections, this large amount of expenditure is about to go in vain. Sir, on a study of the replies made to my questions regarding the Leper Asylums at Anappara, it is clear that there were no objections from the people of Trichur, or the Municipality, headed by Rao Sahib K. Kochugovinda Marar as President, till the 24th of October 1922. The matter of locating the Asylum almost near the forest at Anappara was public property from 1920 onwards; and, from the papers laid on the table, no objection seems to have been raised in any quarter, till long after a change in the personnel of the Diwan, in whose time this was started. It is seen, Sir, from the Trichur Civil Sur-

geon's report to the President that a Leper Asylum is no solution to the leper problem; and he adds, that, for every leper that is confined, there are three roaming at ease and mixing freely in society. I take it, that he speaks more of Trichur than of the State; and, from the little interest that I have taken in this matter, I would ask the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, sitting opposite, whether I am right in saying that the infectious stage of leprosy is not over when ulceration and the dropping of fingers, etc., begins to take place in its advanced stages, when alone people seek admission into an Asylum generally. By the existence of the Asylum at Vendurutti, the people in that island have not suffered the evils of "ill health, disease, misery and mortality", nor have they become "disease-ridden, weak, emaciated and pale-faced citizens, tossed to and fro by the waves of misery on the vast ocean of their miserable existence", as imagined by the memorialists of the 17th of November 1922. I have had the advantage of visiting Anappara and the horse-shoe set of buildings on the top of the round hills and the quarters of the Medical Officer and the Dispensary that have been completed there, as well as the Sankariah Home; and I found them sufficiently isolated as to give no room for offending any sentiment at present. Moreover, Trichur being on the continent, hardly any detriment could result, even if the town does not extend towards Anappara on account of false sentiment. Under such conditions, it would be hardly justifiable even to take into consideration the question of another Leper Asylum, free from sentimental objections, and, particularly, when we are face to face with a deficit budget.

Again, Sir, under First Grade College, Rs. 50,000 is budgetted for buildings alone. If we spread that expenditure over the next two years and spend only about Rs. 25,000 this year upon the luxury of higher education, and take away the Rs. 25,000 put down for Mattancherry Electric Lighting, we would be on the fair road towards a desirable, balanced budget; and while here, I would seek your permission, Sir, to say that it is hardly the function of a Government to launch itself into commercial undertakings and it is not good policy to do so. The bitter past experiments

of the Government are also a warning to us ; and it is not economic to do so, where the elements of expenditure and profit making are no vital concerns in Government undertakings.

As regards the Railway, we must look to the Government alone to reduce the expenditure but, when we consider that labour charges and materials have not doubled in other activities, the reason for the doubling of the expenditure needs very careful examination.

As regards the Agricultural Department, the sooner it is abolished the better, as no useful purpose has been served by it so far : and, if it is replaced by a small set of practical, Agricultural Experts, who carry their knowledge to the very door of the ryots, as itinerant officers, to demonstrate the practicability, the advantage and the profit of their suggestions and experiments, it would be to the advantage of the country.

I would add a word more upon the Tramway, which is supposed to bring a revenue of Rs. 13,000 and which is responsible for eating up Rs. 1,79,200. The Loco expenses come to Rs. 54,402 and the Traffic expenses to Rs. 10,716 ; and if we do not work the Tram in the coming year, even after continuing to maintain it in good condition, to be used in the year 1102, we would be saving over Rs. 70,000, besides being able to cut down expenditure under the general and miscellaneous charges of that department, without causing any detriment whatsoever to the Tramway. Any little work that may have to be unavoidably done, can also be carried out, out of the remaining one lakh of rupees ; and I earnestly request the Conservator of Forests to try his best not to embarrass the finances and to reconsider his requirements, for which alone the Tramway exists.

Coming to the Legislative Council, under-General Administration, and to Law and Justice, now that we have a painstaking, ripe, legal gentleman as Secretary of the Council and two Sirkar Vakils and a Government Advocate, the question of having a Legislative Assistant to the Government Advocate seems to be worthy of reconsideration. A full-timed, official Secretary to the Legislative Council, I suggest, may solve the difficulties, if any, now experienced and that, at less cost.

Now as regards the Legislative Council members and the general treatment of their allowances, travelling expenses, etc. Coming, as they do, at the head of the polls, in the constituencies, they should be treated like the Heads of Departments that sit in this House and any other treatment may not draw out in full that cordial co-operation that has been already invited and is expected of them, especially as they are rendering their services for the honour of serving the country.

Lastly, in general, under Miscellaneous, 1,50,000 rupees have been budgetted in total; and, with a vigilant eye and a retrenching hand, it should not be impossible to make the departments adopt the policy of cutting their coats according to the cloth they are given.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkutti*).

Sir, I believe, I am only echoing the feelings of the people of Cochin; when I say that they feel extremely grateful to His Highness the Maharaja and to His Highness' Government for having given their representatives this rare privilege - belated though its grant be - of discussing the financial policy of the State. On behalf of the people, I trust, I may assure you, Sir, and through you, His Highness, that our best endeavours shall be to help the Government along the difficult path it has to traverse and that our policy shall always be one of hearty co-operation. At the same time, we expect the same consideration and sympathy to be extended to us, to our views and to the measures, we may bring forward.

I may, appropriately, preambule my remarks on the Budget Estimate for the next year by giving a few quotations from some of the Budget Statements and Administration Reports of previous years. Those who are uninitiated cannot make head and tail out of the budget figures, if they are not studied along with the figures for the past few years. This has been rightly and correctly appreciated by the Finance Member; and he has done a great service to the members by drawing pointed attention to the three distinct periods in our State finances, during the last thirty years. In his Memorandum, explaining the Financial Statement for 1985, Sir (then Mr.) A. R. Banerji, the then Diwan,

says, "The year 1083, therefore, may be considered, not only as a period of transition, but also as an important stage from which a complete survey of the finances of the State was made with a view to lay down a definite policy for the future so as to facilitate the introduction of a system of regulated finance and correct forecast of estimates". In the Budget Statement for 1084, the same Diwan says, "The most important consideration for the future will, therefore, be to husband the resources of the State, which will be more than sufficient to provide for everyday administration as well as for liquidating the debts, to guard against unregulated disbursements, to conform strictly to the budget programme for every year and to proceed cautiously in regard to new schemes and enterprises which demand large capital outlay". The Finance Member will please mark these words:—"If these principles are borne in mind, the finances of the State need not give any room for anxiety in the future and are sure to permit the utilisation of a fair proportion of the surplus towards schemes of general public utility, such as, opening new roads, providing a scheme of Water-Works for Ernakulam and Mattancherry, removing congestion in crowded localities, improvement of irrigation works, &c., many of which have been shelved or postponed for want of funds".

The principles thus formulated by Sir A. R. Banerji have been approved of by his successors but lost sight of during the last few years. Mr. Bhore, who succeeded Sir A. R. Banerji as Diwan, has recorded, if I remember right, in all his Administration Reports and Budget Statements, that the revenues have reached their maximum expansion. These two Diwans have in all their Budget Statements and Administration Reports, struck a note of warning that expenses must be regulated, that expenses should never be allowed to exceed the income. I am sorry, Sir, to find that, in recent years, after the advent of Mr. Vijayaraghava Chari as Diwan and during the Diwanship of Mr. P. Narayana Menon, those guiding principles were not kept in view. I went through the Budget Statements and the Administration Reports of these two Diwans; but I could not find any statement made regarding the financial policy of the State. Mr. Vijayaraghava

Chari was satisfied, more or less, with his schemes to effect social reconstruction. Questions of finance were nothing to him. Mr. Narayana Menon could not say anything regarding finance. Now, Sir, we are glad that we have in you, as Diwan, a gentleman who can correctly understand the condition and the feelings of the people.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Nominated-Anglo Indians*).—Does this statement mean that the previous two Diwans were not gentlemen?

President.—There is nothing like that in it.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).—The people feel that the expenses that are now being incurred in several departments, are excessive, and that, in various departments, cuts could justly be made. If this feeling is properly appreciated and acted upon by the Diwan as the Administrative Head, I think, it is not very difficult to balance our budget. I should not, however, be understood to say that, in our anxiety for balancing the budget, we should lose sight of the necessities of life. In the field of Education, for example, if a serious cut is made, little boys and girls will have to vacate the schools; and the next morning they or their parents will flock at the Diwan's gate. In the Primary department of Education, no cut can possibly be made. In the Secondary department also, I do not think cuts are possible. But, as regards the Collegiate department, I agree with the hon'ble members, who spoke before me, in holding that cuts can be effected. There are many in this House who are strongly of opinion that there is no necessity for a First Grade College here. I do not agree with the view of the hon'ble member for Tattamangalam that we should have a University of our own. We cannot maintain a University. Certainly, Universities are necessary. But can Cochin maintain one? Each house-holder will have to keep himself within his own standards. There are the poor and there are the rich. There is the prince and there is the peasant. The prince may keep electric lights; but the peasant will have to content himself with his can of kerosine.

A vast country like British India can have Geological, and other similar, departments. But can a small State like Cochin, with its area of 1,600 sq. miles and population,

of a million, already over-taxed at Rs. 7½ per head, be in any way compared with British India, with its area of millions of square miles, its millions of population and its many millions of receipts? I say, once again, that we should try our best to reduce expenditure in our several departments.

One department, where we can effect a large reduction, is the Forest Department. The Forest and the Tramway Departments have, of late, been coming in for separate budget headings. The result is, one who reads the figures furnished by the Forest Department will not see what its net income is. The Tramway was conceived during the time of the late Conservator, Mr. Alwar Chetty. If I have understood it correctly, the idea then was to tap the resources of Parambikulam forests and to end the Tramway, in due course, or to use it for some other purpose. That idea was, in course of time, forgotten. It continued to be worked, regardless of the expenditure, we had to incur thereby. The Tramway was not paid for transporting timber for the Forest Department, for whose use alone it was originally intended. The proportion, for the last few years, of the gross income from the Forest Department to its net income, taking into account the expenses incurred in connection with the Tramway, stands approximately thus:—1094, 35% ; 1095, 37% ; 1096, 16% ; 1097, 5.5% ; 1098, 19% and 1099, 3.3 %. These percentages cannot bring home to you the actualities, regarding the quantity of timber that has been cut down and removed. Timber worth three and odd lakhs of rupees was cut down and removed in 1099, mostly through the Tramway, and the State got only 12,000 and odd rupees. May I not ask whether it is not better, whether it is not a saner policy, under these circumstances, to allow the forests to grow freely, to allow the people a freer use rather than thus deplete it for such a trifling income? I say, Sir, that, in these two departments, neither the expenditure nor the income is regulated. A masterly hand is needed to curb the evils which have crept into these departments. I hope, the Government will soon make enquiries by appointing a committee. If matters are allowed to drift, these white elephants will destroy the future crops also of the State. In extracting timber, the Forest Depart-

ment is at present working directly and through private agencies. Direct working is to cut down timber either standing or windfallen and to carry them to the plains either through the Tramway or through private agencies. This is sold either by public auction or by negotiation. I know, Sir, that during the past few months the Forest Department has sold away hundreds of candies of timber, brought down to the plains by its contractors. The department has paid 9 or 10 rupees per candy for cutting down and cartage. The seigniorage comes to 2 or 3 rupees per candy. Adding up, the actual cost is somewhere between 11 to 13 rupees per candy. Would the Conservator of Forests deny it, when I say, more than 1000 candies of timber were sold, during the last year, at Rs. 3 or thereabouts, per candy, so that the loss to the Government from this item alone is Rs. 10,000 approximately? A week before the last, 300 candies of timber, lying on the roadside between Pattikkad and Vaniampara, were sold at Rs. 3 per candy. This is not a policy fit to be pursued in this State. Let the windfallen trees rot in the forests but let us not spend Rs. 10 for a gross return of Rs. 3.

In another department, the Agricultural Department, which has come in for much criticism, the original idea with which it was started has been forgotten. In one of his Administration Reports, Mr. Bhore has stated that the object, in opening the Central Farm at Ollukkara, was to maintain an Agricultural School. But, latterly, the whole plan was lost sight of. The Central Farm, as remarked by the Hon'ble Member for Nellore, is now utilised to rear vendakkai and kathrikai. Attention on these cannot effect the slightest improvement in agriculture in this country. Forgetting the original plans, the department began to spend money lavishly, year after year, on this Central Farm. An Agricultural School was certainly necessary. But now we have gone so far in spending that, for the time being, I cannot advocate the establishment of an Agricultural School either. The Department of Agriculture is to teach us how we are to carry on agriculture. But, if we proceed on the lines which we see from the statements furnished by this department, we cannot get one agriculturist in this State to follow us. Year after year, the department shows about Rs. 13,000, approximately

as receipts from the Central Farm, over which it spends over Rs. 30,000 annually. This is not the way in which agriculture is to be profitably carried on. It may be argued that the Central Farm is only a model farm and that there are several officers, who are to teach and to supervise, whose salaries have been included in the total expenses of the Central Farm. But supervision is everywhere necessary. If, for the Central Farm with several acres, a large amount is needed for supervision, for a few acres, supervision will have to be paid for proportionately.

The idea of diffusing Agricultural Education in the State, by merely maintaining a Central Farm is preposterous. On the other hand, the proper thing to do would be to carry instruction to the homes of the cultivators. That is what we find in other fields. Education, for example, has to be carried to the homes, in the first instance. I have heard it said that, when schools were first started, illiterate people were afraid to go there. They had to be invited and induced to attend there. To give proper education to the agriculturists, we have to carry it to their doors. A Central Agricultural Farm at Ollukkara cannot satisfy this demand. The policy of the department should be to send their Inspectors to the homes of the poor agriculturists. Inspectors should travel far and wide, giving the necessary advice. What, I ask, has the Agricultural Department done to remove the pest spreading in Vendurutti—I mean the cocoanut pest? If we had a properly organized Agricultural Department, it would have done much more, long, long ago. In the face of that pest, the Agricultural Department was sitting idle. It has now published a few notices. These notices could have come out long ago. Its officers should have hastened to the places and given instruction to the agriculturists, as to the proper methods, by which these pests could be got rid of.

I come, now, to the Public Works Department. In the constituency, which I represent, I found, in my tours for canvassing votes, an almost entire absence of roads. I ask why this place has been so neglected even though thousands and thousands of rupees is collected therefrom by way of revenue. Is it because very many highly educated men do not hail from there? It is not only the vicinity of towns or the vicinity of palaces

that should be cared for by the administration. The poor peasant, as well as the rich, should have proper means of communication provided for by the Government. Therefore, Sir, it is an urgent need that roads should be opened in areas, where none exists at present. When Mr. Bhore was Diwan, a Committee was appointed to consider the whole question of communications in the State, both by land and by water. That Committee has submitted its report, formulating a programme of works. I believe the Perumpuzha embankment, which reflects much credit upon the administration responsible for it, was undertaken in pursuance of this programme. But this programme has not, latterly, been followed by the Public Works Department.

I think, Sir, there is another great omission on the part of that department. While we maintain our Railways, Tramways and other means of communication, our waterways are neglected. A few years ago, the Government of India appointed a Committee—I think, the Acworth Committee—to consider and report upon the question of communications. It was that Committee's view that, along with Railways, communications by water also should be given particular attention to. Recently, in Bombay, the Railway Commissioner was approached by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and one of the matters the Chamber pressed for the attention of the Imperial Government was the development of communications by water. Water communication is cheaper and much more suitable to the poor people. Where you have to pay one rupee for transport by land, you need pay only four annas by water. The channel, leading from Cochin to Trichur, was much frequented 20 or 25 years ago. Now, it is almost abandoned. The Railway Company constructed so low a bridge, over this channel near Trichur, that boats could not approach the landing place. I hope, the Public Works Department will bestow due attention on communications by water.

Once again, I assure you, Sir, that from us, sent by the constituencies as their representatives, you can expect all co-operation. At the same time, we demand co-operation from you and respect for the views we put forward. If we work on these lines, mutually co-operating, we shall balance our budget, not only this year, but in all years to come.

President.—Before we rise for lunch, I wish to point out that the general discussion of the Budget will have to be brought to a close before we disperse for lunch to-morrow, that is, by 2 o'clock in the afternoon. I do not know whether we shall be able to finish our work within that time. Many useful and instructive criticisms have been brought forward by the several members that I think it absolutely necessary for my Heads of Departments to explain their position in as clear a light as is possible. To that end, it may be necessary to cut short the time of speech to-morrow.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2 p. m.

The Council resumed its sitting at 3 p. m.

President.—We shall now proceed to the next item in the list of business for the day. I call upon Mr. A. Sankara Puduval to move the following resolution which stands in his name :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a grant-in-aid of not less than Rs. 5,000 be given to the Cochin Central Co-operative Institute for 1101 M. E., in order to enable the Institute to carry on successfully its educational and propagand work in the field of co-operation in the State."

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Mr. President,

I have great pleasure in moving this Resolution :—"This council recommends to the Government that a grant-in-aid of not less than Rs. 5,000 be given to the Cochin Central Co-operative Institute for 1101 M. E., in order to enable the Institute to carry on successfully its educational and propaganda work in the field of co-operation in the State."

Before I ask you to accept this resolution, it may not, perhaps, be out of place, if I offer a few remarks with regard to the scope of the institution, its aims and objects. So far as Co-operation proper is concerned, it has received universal acceptance, and the Government of Cochin has also been lending its support to this movement, though not judged by the extent of money, which has been contributed during the last ten years. Co-operative institutions were started about 12 years ago, just before Mr. Banerji retired from the office of Diwan, but the actual working of the Co-operative Societies commenced only in 1090 M. E. That is, we have been actually at work for the last 10 years—roughly ten years. It is a matter of gratification to